

Hydropoly

A monopoly type game
focused on wetlands management

Materials needed: copies of the game board (one per small group of people)

1 set of the Decision Cards per game board

1 die (not a pair) per game board

tape

scissors

6 different-colored playing pieces per game board (construction

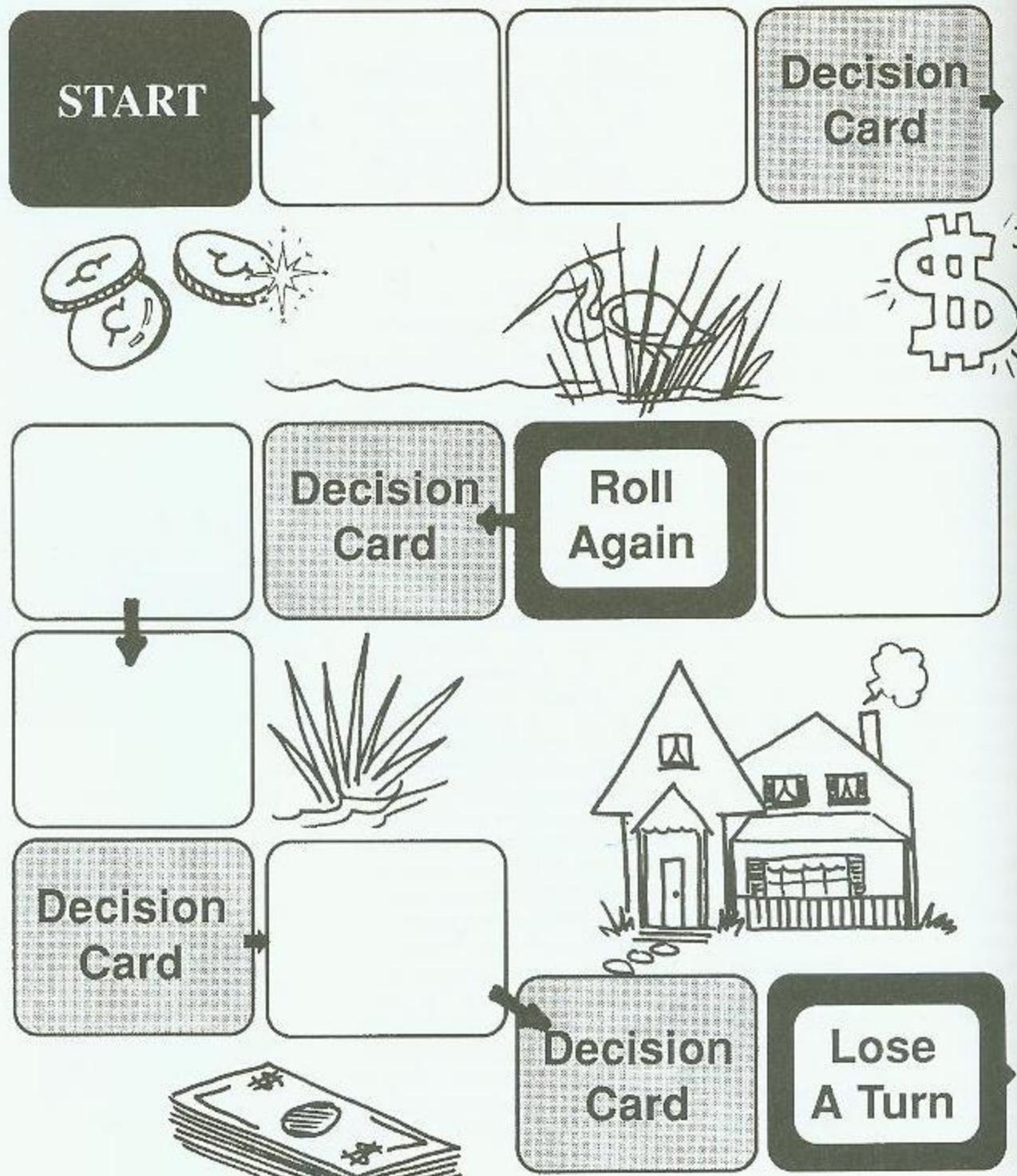
Paper squares or pieces from another game).

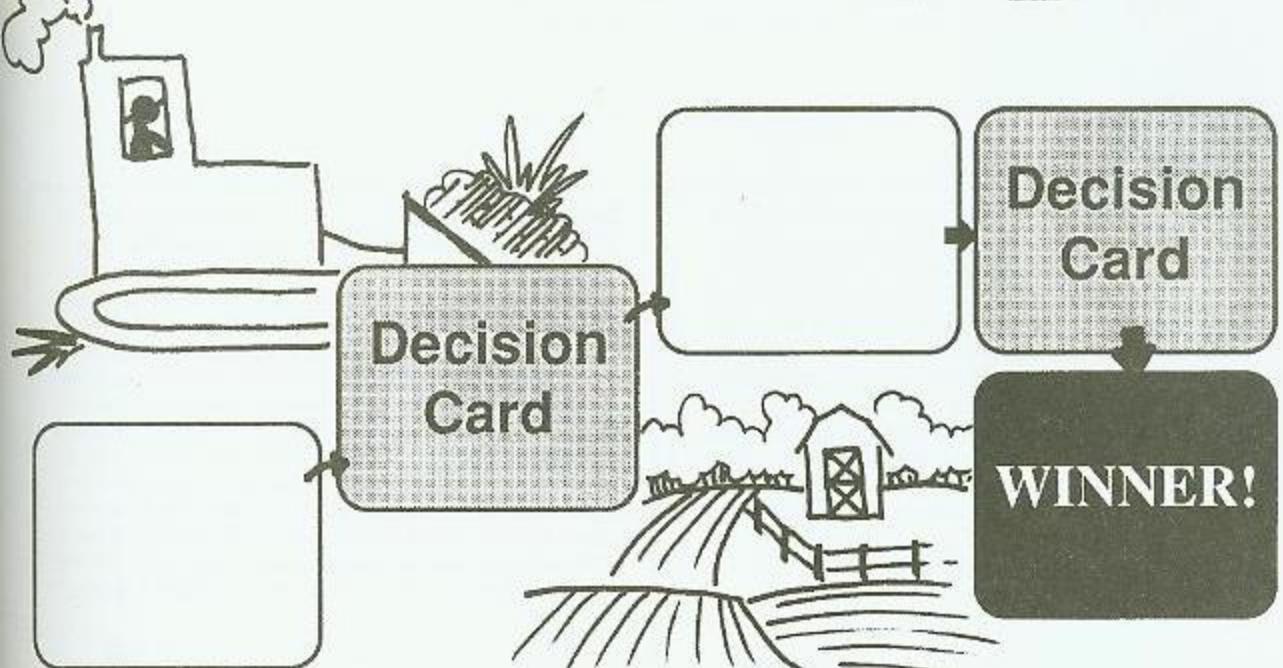
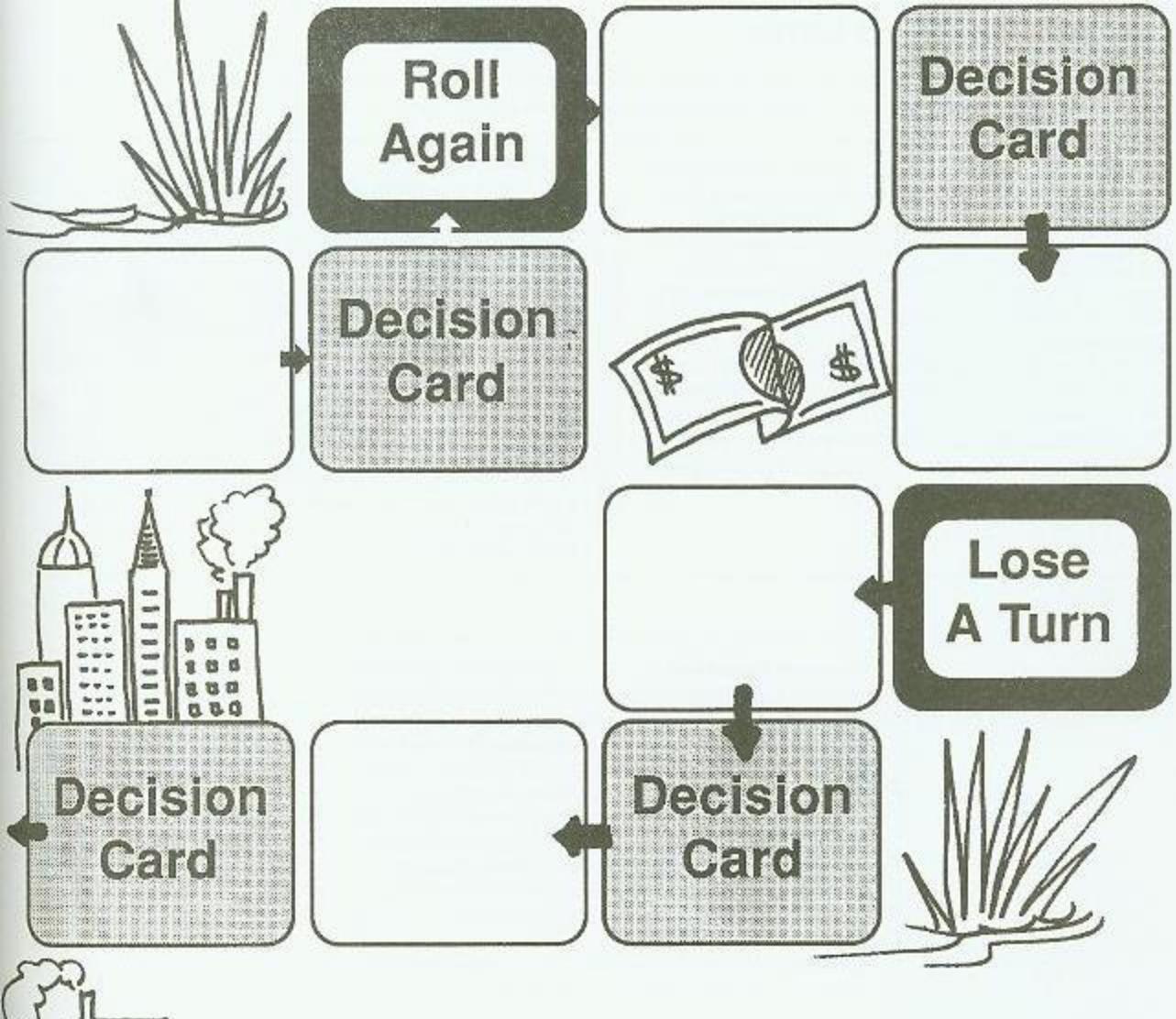
Rules and How to Play

1. Each player (or team) selects a game piece and places it on the space marked Start. Each player rolls the die and the player rolling the highest number goes first; play proceeds in a clockwise direction.
2. The first player rolls the die and moves his or her playing piece the number of spaces indicated on the die. Move in the direction indicated by the arrows on the board. When a player lands on a blank space, his turn is over and play advances to the next player. When a player lands on a space marked Roll Again she may do so and move along the board as before. If a player lands on Lose A Turn, the turn is over and he must skip his next turn.
3. Decision Cards: When a player lands on a Decision Card space, she must randomly select one of the cards (cards should be facedown). An opponent reads the top portion of the card aloud. (Do not read out the Consequences.) The player has maximum of tow minutes to make a decision. If playing in teams, team members may discuss the decision quietly. When a player announces his or her decision, the person holding the card reads the Consequences, which tell how many spaces the player has earned or lost for the decision. The player must follow the instructions given on the card and return the card to the pile. The player's turn continues until landing on a blank space or Losing A Turn. Play then moves to the next player or team.
4. Players may only reach THE WINNER space by an *exact* roll of the die. If a player is four spaces away, for example, and rolls a five, he may not move and must forfeit his turn; if he rolls a three he must move three spaces, but must hen roll a one to win.
5. The consequence specified on each Decision Card reward players for choosing to protect the wetlands. If you wish other values to be considered, you must determine a new set of consequences and substitute them on the Decision Cards before the game begins.

Hydropoly!

The Game of Wetlands Management and Eco-nomics





Decisions Decisions!

You have inherited \$250,000! Now you can buy land and build your dream home. You narrow your choices down to two properties. One (A) lies right along the shores of a beautiful bay; the other (B) is nestled in a quiet upland forest. Both properties cost the same. Which will you choose?

Consequences:

(A) Building that close to the water will surely harm or destroy wetlands! Move back 3 spaces. (B) If you cut only enough trees to make room for the house, you will harm less natural habitat than you would in (A). Move ahead three spaces.

Decisions Decisions!

You live in a bustling city that lies near a large river. It is election day for a new state governor. Candidate A promises increased economic growth and more jobs. He supports the construction of a huge new shopping mall near the river. Candidate B proposes to increase economic growth by promoting travel and recreation. He also wants to build a mall in an abandoned building site near a major highway. Will you vote for (A) or (B)?

Consequences:

(A) Building close to the water will surely harm or destroy Wetlands. The city and state do not seem to be badly in need Of growth and can make money in other ways. Move back 3 Spaces. (B) It makes sense to build in an area that is already Developed, keeping wetlands intact so they can add to the Economy in other ways. Move ahead three spaces.

Decisions Decisions!

You are a kind-hearted person who donates \$200 each year to a charity or good cause. You have been asked to give money to either (A) a conservation organization that helps protect wetlands worldwide, or (B) a local Boy Scout troop. If you choose A, you will be helping to preserve wetlands and protect wildlife all over the world. If you choose B, you can ask the Scouts to use the money to clean up and restore a small wetland in your community. Which will you choose?

Consequences:

Both choices have their merits. Move ahead 1 space.

Decisions Decisions!

You are a farmer who is getting older and thinking about retirement. Your land was once a wetland (a shallow area that stayed very wet throughout the spring). If you stop plowing the land, it will turn into a wetland again. You need to sell your land to earn retirement money. You are offered money from (A) someone who will develop the land for housing or business, and (B) a conservation organization that will keep the land as a wetland preserve, providing you with a tax break. The developer offers you twice as much money. Which will you choose?

Consequences:

(A) Move back 2 spaces. (B) Move ahead 3 spaces.

Decisions Decisions!

You are a town zoning officer-you decide the number and type of places that can be built in your area. One of only a few wetlands in the town is due for rezoning. The townspeople are encouraging you to vote in one of two ways on the zoning: (A) allow housing for the poor to be built there (this housing is badly needed); zone the area for preservation. Which will you choose?

Consequences:

(A) The housing is needed, but it can built in another location. The wetland is needed for good water quality. Move back 2 spaces. (B) With so few wetlands in town, too many benefits would be lost by destroying the site in question. Move ahead 2 spaces.

Decisions Decisions!

You are a farmer. You own 100 acres near the water, which you plant in corn. Times are tough and you and your spouse are expecting a child. In the past, you have always left a strip of land along the waterway unplowed. The natural growth of wetland plants helps keep the water clean and provides habitat for many animals. But if you planted corn there instead, you'd have about 15 extra acres of crops. Will you plow it this year (A) or not (B)?

Consequences:

(A) Move back 3 spaces. (B) Move ahead 4 spaces. That's a tough decision.

Decisions Decisions!

You are a very wealthy landowner who is about to build a housing development that will make you even richer! The land contains some wetlands which would be destroyed by the project. You can (A) cancel the project, or (B) go to great expense to build new wetlands nearby to replace the one that will be destroyed. Which do you choose?

Consequences:

(A) Move ahead 3 spaces. (B) Move ahead 1 space. The plan to replace the wetland is a decent choice, but the costs (money and habitat) may outweigh the benefits. Natural wetlands may be healthier.

Decisions Decisions!

Today is Saturday, and you have tickets to a very cool outdoor concert that you've been looking forward to for months. The tickets cost you a month's allowance, but it's worth it. Your little brother just came in and told you about the wetland clean-up day near his school. They plan to pick up trash and plant new plants all around the area. He is excited and wants you to come and help, since they need lots of people to get the work done. If you go, you'll miss the concert. Where will you go? (A) Little brother; (B) Concert.

Consequences:

(A) What a sacrifice! Move ahead 3 spaces. (B) Move back 1.

Decisions Decisions!

You work for the state's highway department. A new road being built will destroy six acres of wetlands. To get the permit to build the road, the department had to promise to replace the wetlands. You are in charge of hiring a company to do the work, and you must choose between two companies. The expensive one *guarantees* that the new wetlands will survive; the cheaper one doesn't, but thinks their wetland will be good. Will you (A) save state money and take a chance on the wetlands' survival or (B) spend more and get the guarantee?

Consequences:

(A) Move back 4 spaces. (B) Move ahead 3 spaces.

Decisions Decisions!

You've designed your dream house, and you're very proud of it. The plans show a beautiful front that faces a quiet street and a garage in the back with a long driveway around to it. There are wetlands in your backyard that will have to be filled in for the driveway and garage. Will you (A) build the house as planned, or (B) change the design placing the garage and a shorter driveway in front of the house or on the side under a deck?

Consequences:

(A) Move back 2 spaces. (B) Move ahead 2 spaces.